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Oracle9i Performance Tuning Study Guide

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QUESTION 1:

Which two statements regarding OLTP systems are true? (Choose two)

A. Use literals for optimally shared SQL rather than bind variables to keep the overhead of parsing to a minimum.
B. To avoid the performance load of dynamic space allocation, allocate space explicitly so tables, clusters and indexes.
C. B-tree indexing is preferred to bitmap indexing, because of locking issues affecting DML operations.
D. Use hash clusters especially on tables that are heavily inserted into, because of the use of space and the number of blocks that need to be visited.
E. Use application code to enforce rules instead of constraints, because constraints are extremely expensive to process.

Answer: B, C

Explanation:
Online Transaction Processing (OLTP) systems tend to be accessed by large numbers of users doing short DML transactions. Users of OLTP systems are primarily concerned with throughput: the total time it takes to place an order, remove an item from inventory, or schedule an appointment. To avoid the performance load of dynamic space allocation, you need to allocate space explicitly so tables, clusters and indexes. Bitmap indexes will not work good for the OLTP systems because of locking issues affecting DML operations. B-tree indexes can handle this easier and effectively.
Incorrect Answers
A: You cannot use literals for optimally shared SQL rather than bind variables because of nature of OLTP systems: they work effectively using bind variables because of performing DML operations.
D: Hash clusters work more effective for DSS (Decision Support Systems): high level inserts and updates will eliminate the advantage of hash clusters which require lower level of DML activity as DSS systems provide.
E: Constraints are not expensive to process: they need to be used to avoid additional application code creation to enforce a business rules.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 187-188
Chapter 3: SQL Application Tuning and Design

QUESTION 2:

When performing a sort operation, you notice that there are a large number of sorts requiring I/0 to the disk. Which parameter could be increased to allow more sorts to be performed in memory?

A. SORT_AREA_SIZE
B. LARGE_POOL_SIZE

C. SORT_AREA_RETAINED_SIZE
D. SORT_MULTIBLOCK_READ_COUNT

Answer: A

Explanation:
The amount of memory set aside for each user's Server Process to perform these sort operations is impacted by the following init.ora parameters: SORT_AREA_SIZE, SORT_AREA_RETAINED_SIZE, PGA_AGGREGRATE_TARGET, WORKAREA_SIZE_POLICY. The default value for SORT_AREA_SIZE is OS-dependent. The minimum size for this parameter is equivalent to six Oracle blocks. The maximum size is OS-dependent. SORT_AREA_SIZE specifies how much memory each user's Server Process should set aside to perform in-memory sort operations.
Incorrect Answers
B: LARGE_POOL_SIZE parameter is used to buffer I/O server processes as well as backup and recovery. It also caches session data when the Shared Server feature is used.
C: Once a sort operation is complete, if the sort area still contains sorted rows that need to be returned to the user, the user's Server Process reduces the memory set aside for the final fetch to the value specified by SORT_AREA_RETAINED_SIZE.
D: SORT_MULTIBLOCK_READ_COUNT specifies the number of database blocks to read each time a sort performs a read from a temporary segment. Temporary segments are used by a sort when the data does not fit in SORT_ARE_SIZE of memory. In these situations, sort writes out sections of data to temporary segments in the form of sorted runs. Once all the data has been partially sorted to these runs, sort merges the runs by reading pieces of them from the temporary segment into memory to produce the final sorted output. If SORT_AREA_SIZE is not large enough to merge all the runs at once, subsets of the runs are merged in a number of merge passes.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 412-413
Chapter 8: Tuning Disk I/O

QUESTION 3:

Which statement could require a sort?

A. SELECT DISTINCT dept_id
FROM emp:
B. UPDATE emp SET salary=salary*1.1
WHERE id=7722;
C. SELECT emp_id, name
FROM emp
WHERE emp-id=7722;
D. SELECT emp_id, name
FROM emp
WHERE emp_id BETWEEN7722and7100;

Answer: A

Explanation:
The types of SQL statements that can cause database sorts to occur include the following:
ORDER BY, GROUP BY, SELECT DISTINCT, UNION, INTERSECT, MINUS,
ANALYZE, CREATE INDEX, joins between tables on columns that are not indexed.
Incorrect Answers
B: This UPDATE statement does not require any sort operation.
C: This SELECT statement does not require any sort operation.
D: Usage of BETWEEN clause in the SELECT statement will not cause any sort
operation.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 411-412
Chapter 8: Tuning Disk I/O

QUESTION 4:

Which two views can be used to detect lock contention? (Choose two)

A. V$LOCK
B. V$LOCKED_OBJECT
C. V$LOCK_CONTENTION

Answer: A, B

Explanation:
When left to its default mechanisms, Oracle generally does a very effective job of
managing locking. When it does occur, lock contention can be identified using the
V$LOCK and V$LOCKED_OBJECT dynamic performance views, the DBA_WAITERS
and DBA_BLOCKS data dictionary views, and the OEM Performance Manager GUI.
Incorrect Answers
C: There is no V$LOCK_CONTENTION data dictionary view in Oracle.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 487-489
Chapter 9: Tuning Contention

QUESTION 5:

The database includes tables with static data, which are used for queries only. To which
size should you set PCTFREE for this type of table?

A. 0
B. 50
C. 20
D. 10

Answer: A

Explanation:

The parameter PCTFREE tells Oracle how much space to set aside in each block to store row updates. Since we have a database with static data, PCTFREE can be set to 0 to use the disk space more effectively.
Incorrect Answers
B: By setting this parameter to 50 you will preserve 50% of data block for the future inserts. It will be just space wasting because of static nature of data inside the tables.
C: This size still cannot be considered as appropriate for the database with static data.
D: You can use this size for the database with minimal level of update activity.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 401
Chapter 8: Tuning Disk I/O

QUESTION 6:

Which action could potentially cause checkpoints to take longer?

A. Increasing the number of redo log groups.
B. Increasing the size of rollback segments.
C. Decreasing the value of the REDO_LOG_BUFFERS parameter.
D. Increasing the value of the FAST_START_IO_TARGET parameter.

Answer: D

Explanation:
By increasing the FAST_START_IO_TARGET parameter you tell Oracle that it can use more time to perform recovery after instance crash. So it will cause that checkpoints will take longer. This parameter supersede the FAST_START_MTTR_TARGET parameter if configured. The FAST_START_MTTR _TARGET init.ora parameter is used to specify a mean time (in seconds) to recover the instance following an instance failure.
Incorrect Answers
A: By increasing the number of redo log groups you will not decrease a time for checkpoints.
B: The size of rollback segments has nothing to do with checkpoints duration.
C: There is no REDO_LOG_BUFFERS parameter in Oracle.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 343-345
Chapter 7: Tuning Redo Mechanisms

QUESTION 7:

When a deadlock shutdown is detected by Oracle, where is the trace file generated?

A. SQL_TRACE
B. TRACE_DEST
C. USER_DUMP_DEST
D. CORE_DUMP_DEST
E. BACKGROUND_DUMP_DEST

Answer: C

Explanation:
Oracle creates a user trace file when processing errors in a user's Server Process. A deadlock error will be shown in a user trace file which is located in the USER_DUMP_DEST. While events such as deadlocks automatically generate trace files, full scale tracing of user sessions does not occur unless the user or DBA requests it.
Incorrect Answers
A: SQL_TRACE is the main method for collecting SQL Execution information in Oracle collecting a wide range of information and statistics that can be used to tune SQL operations.
B: The TRACE_DEST parameter does not specify the location of this file.
D: CORE_DUMP_DEST should point to the directory where core dumps from the Oracle server will be placed. A core dump is a memory image of the Oracle shadow process produced when an unexpected , unrecoverable or invalid condition occurs. Note that Oracle should always try to write a trace file before producing a core dump.
E: BACKGROUND_DUMP_DEST specifies the pathname (directory or disc) where debugging trace files for the background processes (LGWR, DBWn, and so on) are written during Oracle operations.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 40-41
Chapter 2: Sources of Tuning Information

QUESTION 8:

Which two statements are true of the buffer cache? (Choose two)

A. The buffer pools in Oracle9i can be resized dynamically.
B. The blocks in the buffer cache are managed using one list.
C. The blocks in the buffer cache are managed using two lists.
D. In Oracle9i buffer caches can be dynamically added.

Answer: A, C

Explanation:
Begining with Oracle9i, the dynamic SGA infrastructure will allow for the sizing of the Buffer Cache, Shared Pool and the Large Pool without having to shutdown the database. The buffer pools in Oracle9i can be resized dynamically without stopping instance with commands like ALTER SYSTEM SET DB_CACHE_SIZE=<size>. The blocks in the buffer cache are managed using two lists.
Incorrect Answers
B: The blocks in the buffer cache are managed using two lists, not one list.
D: Buffer caches, other than DEFAULT, i.e. DB_KEEP_CACHE_SIZE or DB_RECYCLE_CACHE_SIZE cannot be dynamically added. They need to be present in the init.ora or spfile.
OCP: Oracle 9i Performance Tuning Study Guide, Joseph C. Johnson, p. 275-277
Chapter 5: Tuning the Database Buffer Cache

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